

Appln No. 09/690,796

Amdt date July 25, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 23, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A secure on-line system for printing value bearing items (VBI) comprising:

a client system for interfacing with ~~one or more~~ a plurality of users; and

a server system capable of communicating with the client system over a communication network comprising:

a secure database remote from the users including ~~information about~~ a data record for each of the users;

~~computer executable code for password authentication to prevent unauthorized access to the database;~~ and

a plurality of cryptographic module for modules, each of the plurality of cryptographic modules capable of authenticating, processing value for the VBI, and generating indicia data for any of the one or more plurality of users, wherein before each of the authentication, processing value, and generating indicia data for a given user is performed, the respective cryptographic module retrieves the data record for the given user from the database.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the computer executable code for password authentication comprises~~ of further comprising computer executable code for an

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asynchronous dynamic password verification to terminate a user session if the password authentication fails.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the database stores a first set of one or more last database transactions and ~~the cryptographic module~~ each of the cryptographic modules stores a second set of one or more last database transactions for comparison with the first set of one or more last database transactions stored in the database to verify each database transaction.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein ~~the cryptographic module~~ each of the cryptographic modules prevents further database transactions if the second set of one or more last transaction stored in the cryptographic module does not compare with the first set of one or more last transaction stored in the database.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the database stores a table including the respective information about a last transaction and a verification module to compare the information saved in the module with the information saved in the database.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a back up database server connected to the server system for periodically backing up the data stored in the database in a back up database.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a cryptographically protected transaction log stored in the back up database.

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11.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the cryptographic module~~ each of the cryptographic modules includes a data validation subsystem to verify that data is up to date and an auto-recovery subsystem for allowing the module to automatically re-synchronize the module with the data.

18.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the cryptographic module~~ each of the cryptographic modules includes a computer executable code for detecting errors and preventing a compromise of data or critical cryptographic security parameters as a result of the errors.

23.-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the server system further comprises one or more of a postal server subsystem, a provider server subsystem, an e-commerce subsystem, a staging subsystem, a client support subsystem, a decision support subsystem, a SMTP subsystem, an address matching service subsystem, a SSL proxy server subsystem, and a web server subsystem.

43.-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A method for securely printing value-bearing items (VBI) via a communication network including

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a client system and a server system, the method comprising the steps of:

interfacing with ~~one or more~~ a plurality of users via the client system;

communicating with the client system over the communication network;

storing a data record for each of the plurality of users
~~user information~~ in a secure database ~~accessible through the communication network~~;

~~preventing unauthorized access to the database by users external to the communication network; and~~

retrieving the data record for a given user from the database for authenticating one or more users using a cryptographic module the given user;

retrieving the data record for the given user from the database for processing value for the VBI for the given user;

updating and storing back in the database the data record for the given user after processing value for the given user;

retrieving the data record for the given user from the database for generating indicia data for the given user; and

updating and storing back in the database the data record for the given user after generating indicia data for the given user.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of encrypting each ~~database transactions~~ transaction by ~~the~~ a cryptographic module.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising the steps of

storing one or more last database transactions in the database;

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storing one or more last database transactions in ~~the~~ a cryptographic module; and

comparing the one or more last database transactions stored in the database with the one or more last database transactions stored in ~~the~~ a cryptographic module to verify each database transaction.

53.-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising the steps of storing one or more last database transactions in the database, storing one or more last database transactions in ~~the~~ a cryptographic module for comparison with the one or more last database transactions stored in the database to verify each database transaction.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of preventing further database transactions if the one or more last transaction stored in the cryptographic module does not compare with the one or more last transaction stored in the database.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of storing a table including the respective information about a last transaction and comparing the information saved in ~~the~~ a cryptographic module with the information saved in the database.

58. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of backing up data stored in the database in a back up database.

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59. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of recovering data from the back up database by decrypting an encrypted transaction log stored in the back up database.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of storing in the database a plurality of security device transaction data for ensuring authenticity of ~~the one or more~~ each of the plurality of users, wherein each security device transaction data is related to a user.

62.-91. (Cancelled)

92. (Currently Amended) An on-line system for printing value bearing items (VBI) comprising:

a client system for interfacing with one or more users;

a server system capable of communicating with the client system over a communication network comprising:

~~a first database remote from the user~~ including ~~information about data records for the one or more users~~ user;

a cryptographic module for retrieving a data record for the user from the database and authenticating any of the one or more users user, retrieving the data record for the user from the database and processing value for the VBI for the user, retrieving the data record for the user from the database for generating indicia data for the given user, wherein after each of the processing value, and generating indicia data for the user is completed, the cryptographic module updates and returns to the database the data record for the user; and

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~~a backup database server connected to the server system for backing up data in a back up database.~~

93.-106. (Cancelled)

107. (Currently Amended) A method for printing value-bearing items (VBI) via a communication network including a client system and a server system, the method comprising the steps of:

~~interfacing with one or more users~~ a user via the client system;

communicating with the client system over the communication network;

~~storing a data record for the user—information in a database—accessible through the communication network;~~

authenticating the users by a cryptographic module; ~~and~~

~~backing up data stored in the database in a back up database~~

retrieving the data record for the user from the database for processing value for the VBI;

updating and storing back in the database the data record for the user after processing value for the VBI;

retrieving the data record for the given user from the database for generating indicia data for the given user; and

updating and storing back in the database the data record for the given user after generating indicia data for the given user.

108. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 107, further comprising ~~the step of~~ backing up data stored in the database in a back up database and recovering data from the back

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up database by decrypting an encrypted transaction log stored in the back up database.

109. (Cancelled)

110. (Original) The method of claim 107, further comprising the steps of

storing one or more last database transactions in the database;

storing one or more last database transactions in the cryptographic module; and

comparing the one or more last database transactions stored in the database with the one or more last database transactions stored in the cryptographic module to verify each database transaction.

111.-112. (Cancelled)

113. (Original) The method of claim 107, further comprising the steps of storing one or more last database transactions in the database, storing one or more last database transactions in the cryptographic module for comparison with the one or more last database transactions stored in the database to verify each database transaction.

114. (Original) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of preventing further database transactions if the one or more last transaction stored in the cryptographic module does not compare with the one or more last transaction stored in the database.

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115.-121. (Cancelled)